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STATE FOR SCA/FO, SCA/A, EUR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL NATO MARR GM AF

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GERMAN REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF  
IV PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN GOVERNOR

REF: BERLIN 1886

This cable is sensitive but unclassified. Please handle accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) Post appreciates Embassy Berlin's REFTEL message  
relaying the German government's sensitivities about the  
nomination of the Kunduz province governor, Mohammad Omar,  
for participation in the autumn International Visitor program.

¶2. (SBU) Post would appreciate Embassy Berlin's conveying to  
the German government that the governor is not being  
considered for participation in an IV program this year. It  
may be useful to note that Governor Omar enjoys President  
Karzai's confidence. Whether or not he continues as Governor  
of Kunduz or is removed from that position during the  
anticipated round of governor changes, he is likely to  
continue to occupy Afghan leadership positions. It may also  
be helpful to clarify that the International Visitor program  
is not a reward for performance but an educational  
experience. It serves western interests by encouraging  
participating leaders' ( who in many cases are targeted due  
to their need for training) acceptance of modern principles  
of democratic governance and often has profound effects on  
behaviors. Post believes Omar's participation in an  
International Visitor program at some point would be an  
opportunity to shape positively his perception of his role  
and responsibilities as a government official. While we can  
inform the Germans he is not on the list for this year's IV  
program for governors, we do not rule out his participation  
in future IV programs.

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